WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Medical Officer's Report for the year 1943 to the Chairman and Councillors.

The Minister of Health has directed that the report for 1943 shall again be abbreviated and confined to essential and urgent matters and to exceptional administrative measures. Statistics are to be preserved but not included in this interim report.

The Minister asks that information about the water supplies of the District shall be included.

There is little of an urgent or exceptional nature to report. With the exception of a mild outbreak of influenza there was no unusual prevalence of epidemic or other diseases and the health of the population remained good.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The following table shows the progress made in this important measure since its early inception by this Council in 1939. No case of diphtheria occurred during 1943, and in the absence of this disease there is an inevitable tendency for the popularity of immunisation to wane unless it is constantly stimulated by propaganda and the efforts of Health Workers.

Percentage of child population immunised on dates shown.

Age Group	Dec.1940	Sept.1941	June.1942	Dec.1942	June 1943	Dec.1943
5 - 15	37.8	52.8	62.0	68.6	74.0	75.3
0 - 5	6.3	23.9	29.5	48.2	47.7	42.2

Verminous Conditions.

The prevalence of these, especially scabies, is no doubt greater than it was before the war, but not seriously so in this District. The Minor Ailment Clinic at the Ferndown First Aid Post has proved a very useful institution and has met the long felt need of a Cleansing Station for those affected by parasitic skin complaints. The thanks of the Council are due to the trained Nurse in charge of the Clinic and her voluntary helpers. During 1943 they treated 29 cases of scabies and 51 other cases. There were in all 407 attendances by patients. Several more cases of scabies were treated at home and a few were admitted to the Blandford Isolation Hospital which now devotes itself to such minor infectious diseases.

Water Supplies.

Nine Parishes are provided, some of them only partly, with piped supplies. The remaining sixteen Parishes are not so provided.

5 separate waterworks share in supplying the 9 Parishes viz., the Bournemouth Works, the Poole Works, two smaller waterworks belonging to this Council and one to a private estate. All give "constant" supplies. The great majority of houses have internal supplies. Standpipes are the method in a few cases.

The rest of the District is mainly dependent on wells. Where these are in the chalk formation they usually yield a pure and sufficient supply of water. In the other parts of the District, away from the chalk, wells give an unsatisfactory supply, of inferior quality when judged by bacteriological standards. There is no evidence that disease or ill-health has resulted from the use of this water, but a potential danger nevertheless remains

A few houses and one part of the district in particular are dependent on rain water and suffer severe shortage in dry seasons. Special plans are being made to remedy this.

The Council also has a large and comprehensive scheme for a new piped supply to the greater part of the District. The plans are ready for early execution as soon as circumstances permit.

L.B.Scott, M.D., D.P.H.